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ABSTRACT

In 1981, information on births of Hispanic parentage was available for 22 States. The completeness of reporting of Hispanic origin continued to increase, with somewhat greater improvements measured for origin of the mother than of the father. The fertility rate of the Hispanic population continued to be very high: 97.5 births per 1,000 women, aged 15-44 years (50 percent higher than the rate for non-Hispanic women. The fertility rate for Mexican women was again highest among various Hispanic groups. Teenage childbearing was relatively more frequent among Hispanic than white non-Hispanic groups and families tend to be larger. Nearly one-quarter of Hispanic-origin births were to unmarried mothers, and only half of all Hispanic mothers in 1981 had completed high school (but in this category, as in the others reported, significant differences existed between various Hispanic groups). Furthermore, in 1981, Hispanic mothers were more likely to receive delayed prenatal care, and more likely to make fewer visits for care than non-Hispanic mothers. However, the incidence of low birth weight among babies born to Hispanic women was generally comparable to that observed for births to white non-Hispanics, and while the percent of Hispanic births attended by midwives was higher than that for non-Hispanic groups, it was still very low (3.6 per cent). (Following the narrative portion of this report, twelve statistical tables and notes on data collection and analysis are presented). (KH)

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Births of Hispanic Parentage, 1981

by Stephanie J. Ventura, A.M., Division of Vital Statistics

Introduction

In 1981, as in 1980, information on births of Hispanic parentage was available for 22 States. The States that included an item on their birth certificate on the ethnic or Hispanic origin of the mother and father were Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. These States accounted for nearly 95 percent of the national estimate of Hispanic-origin births in 1981.[1]

Data on births of Hispanic parentage have been available since 1978 when States first began to add the Hispanic or ethnic identifier to their birth certificates. Demographic and health characteristics of 1978, 1979, and 1980 Hispanic births were reported in detail in earlier reports.[2-4] In addition, several tabulations of birth and fertility rates by Hispanic origin were prepared for the 1980 data year, utilizing population information available from the decennial census.[5]

The completeness of reporting of Hispanic origin continued to increase in 1981 with somewhat greater improvements measured for origin of the mother than for origin of the father. In 1981 origin of mother was not reported for 6.4 percent of births to residents of the reporting area compared with 7.0 percent in 1980 and 9.6 percent in 1979. Origin of father was not reported on 15.9 percent of the birth records in 1981 compared with 16.4 percent in 1980 and 18.1 percent in 1979.

The generally less complete reporting of origin of father, as well as other characteristics of the father, is associated in large part with births to unmarried mothers. Several States have strict policies that do not permit the reporting of any information about the father if the parents are not married. Because the mother's origin is better reported than the father's (tables 1 and 3), births are classified only by origin of the mother in tables 2 and 4–12 and in the remainder of the text.

Highlights

The fertility of the Hispanic population continued to be very high in 1981. The fertility rate for women of Hispanic origin was 97.5 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years, 50 percent higher than the rate for non-Hispanic women, 65.0. The fertility rate for Mexican women was again highest among the various Hispanic groups. In 1981 the rate for Mexican women was 112.3, 53 percent higher than the rate for Puerto Rican women, 73.5, and more than double the rate for Cuban women, 47.2. These rates were computed for a total of 11 selected States of the 22 States reporting Hispanic origin in 1981. These 11 States accounted for 97 percent of the Hispanic-origin births in the 22-State reporting area and a little more than 90 percent of all births of Hispanic origin in the United States.[1]

Teenage childbearing is relatively much more frequent among Mexican and Puerto Rican women than among white non-Hispanic women. In 1981, 19 percent of Mexican mothers and 23 percent of Puerto Rican mothers were under age 20 compared with 12 percent of white non-Hispanic and 26 percent of black non-Hispanic mothers. Associated with the high levels of childbearing by young mothers is the tendency toward larger families. For example, 19 percent of Mexican origin births and 13 percent of Puerto Rican births were fourth and higher order compared with 8 percent of white non-Hispanic births and 15 percent of black non-Hispanic births.

Nearly one-fourth of all Hispanic-origin births in 1981 were to unmarried mothers. The proportions by origin group were 21 percent for Mexicans, 48 percent for Puerto Ricans, and 14 percent for Cubans, compared with 10 percent for white non-Hispanic and 57 percent for black non-Hispanic births.

Mothers of Hispanic origin generally are less likely to have completed high school than are non-Hispanic mothers. In 1981, 51 percent of Hispanic mothers had completed high school com-

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pared with 83 percent of white non-Hispanic mothers and 64 percent of black non-Hispanic mothers. For all origin groups the levels of high school completion were highest for mothers aged 25–34 years.

Hispanic-origin mothers, except Cubans, are less likely to begin prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy and more likely to have received delayed care (starting in the third trimester) or no care than are non-Hispanic mothers. In 1981, 61 percent of Hispanic mothers compared with 82 percent of white non-Hispanic mothers and 62 percent of black non-Hispanic mothers began prenatal care in the first trimester. Delayed or no prenatal care was reported for 12 percent of Hispanic mothers compared with 4 percent of white non-Hispanic mothers and 10 percent of black non-Hispanic mothers. Generally, regardless of origin, mothers aged 25–34 years were most likely to begin care early and least likely to receive late or no care.

The incidence of low birth weight among babies born to Hispanic-origin women is generally comparable to that for babies born to white non-Hispanic women. In 1981, 5.6 percent of Mexican babies and 5.8 percent of Cuban babies weighed less than 5½ pounds at birth compared with 5.7 percent of white non-Hispanic births. The greatest risk of low birth weight was observed for babies born to Puerto Rican mothers (9.0 percent) and black non-Hispanic mothers (12.7 percent).

Midwife-attended deliveries are somewhat more frequent for Hispanic-origin births than for white non-Hispanic births. In 1981 midwives attended 3.6 percent of Hispanic births compared with 1.3 percent of white non-Hispanic and 3.2 percent of black non-Hispanic births. The vast majority of all Hispanic births occurred in hospitals, 92.1 percent, but this proportion was lower when the birth was attended by a midwife, 65 percent.

Geographic coverage

Although the 22 reporting States accounted for nearly 95 percent of the estimated number of Hispanic births nationally in 1981, they accounted for just 58 percent of all births in the United States. Hispanic-origin births are particularly concentrated in 9 of the reporting States: 96 percent of the Hispanic births occurred to residents of Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, and Texas (table 2). In addition, births of the three major Hispanic-origin groups are further concentrated in just a few States. In 1981, 94 percent of Mexican births occurred to residents of Arizona, California, Illinois, and Texas; California residents accounted for nearly half of all Mexican births. Five States (California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, and New York) accounted for 92 percent of Puerto Rican births, with New York given as the State of residence for 60 percent. The vast majority of Cuban births, 91 percent, occurred to residents of California, Florida, New Jersey, and New York; 63 percent were to Florida residents.

Race

In 1981 as in 1980, 95 percent of all births to mothers of Hispanic origin were white (table 4). The proportion of black births increased somewhat between 1980 and 1981, from 2.9 percent to 3.4 percent, while the proportion of births of other races declined from 2.0 percent in 1980 to 1.5 percent in 1981. Within each specific Hispanic-origin group there were slight declines between 1980 and 1981 in the proportions of white births and births of other races, balanced by increases in the proportions of black births. In 1981, 98 percent of Mexican births, 90 percent of Puerto Rican births, and 94 percent of Cuban births were white.

Tabulations in this report generally present data for the non-Hispanic population by race, because national fertility data show wide differences in most characteristics between white and black births.

Birth and fertility rates

Birth and fertility rates, which can be computed for a total of 11 selected States, show that fertility continues to be much higher for the Hispanic than for the non-Hispanic population. In 1981 the Hispanic birth rate was 24.1 births per 1,000 population compared with 15.2 for the non-Hispanic population. The fertility rate for Hispanic women was 97.5 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years, 50 percent higher than the rate for non-Hispanic women, 65.0 (table 5).

These rates were computed for 11 States for which the necessary population data, derived from the Current Population Survey (CPS), were made available by the Bureau of the Census (see Technical notes). The 11 States included Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, and Texas, and accounted for 97 percent of the births of Hispanic origin in the 22-State reporting area. The coverage for each of the individual Hispanic groups exceeded 97 percent except for "other Hispanic" (94 percent). These 11 States accounted for a little more than 90 percent of all births of Hispanic origin in the United States in 1981.

There was no consistent pattern of change in levels of fertility for the various Hispanic groups between 1980 and 1981. Because special estimation procedures were involved in compiling the population data for the 1981 rates, comparisons of rates between 1980 and 1981 should be made with caution.

The relative levels of the rates among the specific origin groups were unchanged in 1981. The fertility of Mexican women continued to be highest, with a rate of 112.3, 53 percent higher than the rate for Puerto Rican women, 73.5, and more than twice the rate for Cuban women, 47.2. Birth and fertility rates for the Cuban population continue to be substantially below the rates for any other group. This is partly because the Cuban population is relatively older than the other Hispanic populations. CPS data for 1981 indicate that the median age of Cuban women in the United States was 35.7, considerably above that of women of other Hispanic origins.

Related vital statistics data also demonstrate that the fertility of Hispanic women generally exceeds that of white non-Hispanic women. For example, Hispanic women tend to begin their childbearing at relatively young ages, as shown in table 6. In 1981, 19 percent of Mexican-origin births occurred to mothers in

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their teenage years compared with 12 percent for white non-Hispanic mothers. Early childbearing in turn is associated with greater completed fertility; the proportions of high-order births are generally greater for Hispanic than for non-Hispanic mothers. In 1981, for example, 19 percent of Mexican births compared with 8 percent of white non-Hispanic births were fourth and higher order.

Births to unmarried women

Nearly one-quarter of Hispanic-origin births in 1981 as in 1980 were to unmarried women. A total of 78,758 births, or 24.5 percent of Hispanic births in the 22-State reporting area, were to unmarried women compared with 9.8 percent of white non-Hispanic births and 57.1 percent of black non-Hispanic births (table 8).

The differential between the ratios of births to unmarried Hispanic women and white non-Hispanic women widens as age of mother advances. For example, teenage Mexican mothers are no more likely to be unmarried than teenage white non-Hispanic mothers. At ages 30 and over, however, the nonmarital birth ratios are substantially higher for births of each Hispanic-origin group than for white non-Hispanic births.

Although the necessary population data to compute birth rates for unmarried women by Hispanic origin are not available for the 22-State reporting area for 1981, using census data rates computed for 1980[4,5] indicated that the level of nonmarital childbearing by Hispanic women fell about midway between the levels for white and black non-Hispanic women.

The proportions of nonmarital births are highest for Puerto Rican women (48 percent) and lowest for Cuban women (14 percent). One factor that probably is associated with the high levels of nonmarital births among Hispanic women is the relatively greater incidence of consensual or common law marriages, particularly among Puerto Rican women.

Educational attainment

Hispanic-origin mothers are much less likely to have completed high school than are either white or black non-Hispanic mothers. In 1981 only half of all Hispanic mothers had completed at least 12 years of schooling compared with 83 percent of white non-Hispanic women and 64 percent of black non-Hispanic women (table 9). The levels of high school completion vary substantially for mothers of specific Hispanic-origin groups, from 38 percent for Mexican mothers to 46 percent for Puerto Rican mothers to 73 percent for Cuban mothers. These data are based on information from 20 reporting States; California and Texas did not report educational attainment on the birth certificate.

When the data are further examined by age of mother, it is apparent that regardless of origin, mothers aged 25–34 years were most likely to have completed high school. The proportions of high school graduates among mothers aged 25–29 years, for example, were 46 percent for Mexican, 60 percent for Puerto Rican, and 84 percent for Cuban mothers. Among Hispanic mothers aged 20 years and older, levels of high school completion were lowest for mothers aged 40–49 years, most of whom were born outside the United States.

Prenatal care

Hispanic mothers are generally less likely to begin prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy than are non-Hispanic mothers (table 10). There are, however, substantial differences among the various Hispanic-origin groups and between white and black non-Hispanic mothers in the receipt of prenatal care. For mothers under 25 years old, the proportions beginning care in the first trimester are very similar for Hispanic and black non-Hispanic mothers. At ages 25 and older black non-Hispanic women are more likely than Hispanic mothers generally or Mexican mothers to begin receiving care in the first 3 months of pregnancy. Regardless of age, Puerto Rican women are least likely to begin care in the first trimester, 54 percent overall, while Cuban and white non-Hispanic mothers are most likely to begin care early, 80–82 percent.

The differential by origin-race in early receipt of prenatal care appears to increase as age of mother advances. Teenage mothers of all origin groups are least likely to begin care early. The proportion of white non-Hispanic teenagers aged 15–17 years receiving early care was 11 percent higher than the proportion for comparable Mexican mothers, 52 percent compared with 47 percent. At ages 25–29 years this differential increased to 33 percent (88 percent compared with 66 percent).

Nearly 1 in 9 Hispanic women received delayed prenatal care (beginning in the third trimester) or no care in 1981. This ratio was highest for Puerto Rican mothers (1 in 6) and mothers of Central and South American origin (1 in 8). About 1 in 10 black non-Hispanic mothers received delayed or no prenatal care. Cuban and white non-Hispanic women were least likely to have received delayed or no care (1 in 25, or about 4 percent for each group).

These relationships between onset of prenatal care and Hispanic origin of mother are consistent with the differentials in educational attainment already observed for these groups. An earlier study showed that "The point in pregnancy at which a mother seeks prenatal care is directly related to the years of schooling she has completed."[6] In turn, educational attainment is directly associated with age of mother. Hispanic mothers, as has been observed, tend to be younger than non-Hispanic mothers. Another related factor is the tendency to larger families among Hispanic women. Prenatal care tends to be delayed by young mothers, less-educated mothers, and mothers of higher order births.

Consistent with the delay in receipt of prenatal care, Hispanic mothers are likely to make fewer visits for care than are non-Hispanic mothers. Mexican and Puerto Rican mothers made the fewest visits, with medians of 9.5 and 9.3 visits, respectively, in 1981. The median number of visits made by Cuban mothers was 11.3, close to the median for white non-Hispanic mothers (11.5) and 0.6 visits more than made by black non-Hispanic mothers (10.7).

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Low birth weight

The incidence of low birth weight among babies born to Mexican, Cuban, and Central and South American women is very comparable to that observed for births to white non-Hispanic women (table 11). Low birth weight is defined as weight of less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds 8 ounces).

In 1981, 5.6 percent of births to Mexican mothers, 5.8 percent of births to Cuban mothers, and 5.7 percent of births to mothers of Central and South American origin weighed less than 2,500 grams compared with 5.7 percent of white non-Hispanic and 12.7 percent of black non-Hispanic births. Among births of Hispanic origin, only Puerto Rican births tended to have high levels of low birth weight (9.0 percent).

When the data are further examined by age of mother, it is apparent that births to Mexican mothers are consistently at least risk of being of low birth weight. The proportions ranged from 4.8 percent for births to Mexican mothers aged 25–29 years to 7.2 percent for births to Mexican teenagers 15–17 years old. Births to white non-Hispanic mothers also have low levels of low birth weight, but in every case, except for births to women aged 30–34 years, the low birth weight proportions for births to Mexican mothers are the lowest of all race-origin groups.

The percent low birth weight among Mexican-origin babies is very favorable despite the less advantageous status of Mexican women with respect to educational attainment and prenatal care. An earlier study showed that a key factor in accounting for differentials in low birth weight levels is educational attainment.[6] Therefore other factors must account for the low levels of low birth weight among Mexican babies. The percent low birth weight for infants born to Mexican-born mothers is even lower than the low birth weight proportion for births to mothers of Mexican origin born in the United States, 5.0 percent compared with 6.3 percent.

Attendant at birth and place of delivery

Birth to mothers of Hispanic origin are much more likely to have been attended by midwives than are births to white non-Hispanic mothers; nevertheless the proportion of midwife-attended births for Hispanic mothers is still low. In 1981, 3.6 percent of all Hispanic births were delivered by midwives compared with 1.3 percent of white non-Hispanic births and 3.5 percent of black non-Hispanic births. Among Hispanic-origin groups, Puerto Rican mothers are most likely to have had a midwife attend the delivery of their babies, 4.3 percent in 1981. As is true for white and black non-Hispanic births, the vast majority of Hispanic births occur in hospitals and are attended by physicians, 92.1 percent in 1981.

Compared with white and black non-Hispanic births, Hispanic births attended by midwives are much less likely to have occurred in hospitals. Of the births attended by midwives in 1981, 65 percent of Hispanic births occurred in hospitals compared with 79 percent of white non-Hispanic births and 95 percent of black non-Hispanic births.

It was shown above that the proportion low birth weight of Hispanic-origin babies tends to be relatively favorable. When the percent low birth weight is further examined according to attendant at birth and place of delivery, it appears that midwife-attended Hispanic births have the lowest incidence of low birth weight, regardless of place of delivery, ranging from 3.2 to 3.7 percent in 1981. Hispanic births attended by physicians in and out of hospitals had proportions of low birth weight of 6.3 percent and 7.9 percent, respectively, while births attended by other and unspecified persons had low birth weight proportions of 4.9 percent in hospital and 7.6 percent out of hospital.

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Table 1. Live births by Hispanic origin of mother and father: Total of 22 reporting States, 1981

Origin of father	Origin of mother								
	All origins	Hispanic						Non-Hispanic	Not stated
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic		
All origins	2,100,624	321,954	222,143	33,376	8,369	24,380	33,686	1,644,100	134,570
Hispanic	301,358	257,096	187,038	23,441	6,451	19,154	21,012	41,896	2,366
Mexican	214,359	187,887	183,217	708	227	1,937	1,798	24,972	1,500
Puerto Rican	29,282	23,805	1,184	20,634	294	1,166	527	5,185	292
Cuban	8,245	6,594	258	379	5,243	450	264	1,611	40
Central and South American	21,290	18,837	1,450	1,346	414	15,426	201	2,385	68
Other and unknown Hispanic	28,182	19,973	929	374	273	175	18,222	7,743	466
Non-Hispanic	1,464,548	36,224	19,201	3,549	1,318	2,957	9,201	1,420,467	7,857
Not stated	334,718	28,634	15,904	6,386	602	2,269	3,473	181,737	124,347

Table 2. Live births by Hispanic origin of mother and by race of child for mothers of non-Hispanic origin: 22 reporting States, 1981

State	Origin of mother										
	All origins	Hispanic						Non-Hispanic			Not stated
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic	Total[1]	White	Black	
All reporting States	2,100,624	321,954	222,143	33,376	8,369	24,380	33,686	1,644,100	1,252,905	310,270	134,570
Arizona	51,478	12,029	11,463	57	14	60	435	38,742	31,304	2,102	707
Arkansas	35,807	240	95	15	24	37	69	30,826	22,647	7,927	4,741
California	420,726	121,176	104,340	1,193	651	7,338	7,654	240,726	176,547	34,235	58,824
Colorado	52,103	7,427	2,916	72	20	59	4,360	41,883	37,801	2,367	2,793
Florida	138,491	13,219	1,950	1,516	5,288	1,648	2,824	124,009	87,390	35,135	1,263
Georgia	89,943	703	189	166	84	110	154	85,450	52,926	31,642	3,790
Hawaii	18,214	1,937	211	469	10	44	1,203	16,245	3,668	584	32
Illinois	185,028	17,480	10,338	2,197	220	821	3,904	162,724	120,056	38,533	4,824
Indiana	84,645	1,568	1,118	222	23	47	158	78,205	68,837	8,791	4,872
Kansas	41,246	1,355	1,028	86	8	47	186	35,559	31,589	2,968	4,332
Maine	16,525	82	18	8	2	7	47	14,361	14,072	72	2,082
Mississippi	46,231	132	57	16	8	13	38	43,699	21,934	21,396	2,400
Nebraska	27,176	669	598	11	2	7	51	25,207	23,445	1,300	1,300
Nevada	14,103	1,225	710	28	31	68	388	11,361	9,757	746	1,517
New Jersey	96,651	10,235	215	5,935	976	2,070	1,039	78,116	57,784	18,178	8,300
New Mexico	26,699	9,480	2,224	30	10	29	7,287	16,940	12,710	592	279
New York	242,297	34,092	705	19,969	716	10,470	2,232	187,700	138,039	43,102	20,505
North Dakota	12,398	92	54	8	-	4	26	11,523	10,571	106	783
Ohio	167,055	2,044	777	777	23	101	366	156,555	132,843	22,084	8,456
Texas	281,651	84,330	81,778	587	235	1,295	435	195,731	152,731	38,068	1,590
Utah	41,343	1,758	1,030	9	29	98	592	39,410	37,608	258	175
Wyoming	10,814	681	429	5	2	7	238	9,128	8,646	84	1,005

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

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Table 3. Live births by Hispanic origin of father: 22 reporting States, 1981

State	Origin of father								
	All origins	Hispanic						Non-Hispanic	Not stated
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic		
All reporting States	2,100,624	301,358	214,359	29,282	8,245	21,290	28,182	1,464,548	334,718
Arizona	51,478	12,076	11,549	107	12	32	376	35,999	3,403
Arkansas	35,807	190	82	9	14	27	58	25,596	10,021
California	420,726	122,108	106,317	1,616	691	6,284	7,200	231,495	67,123
Colorado	52,103	5,876	2,755	116	17	39	2,949	37,374	8,853
Florida	138,491	12,675	2,000	1,511	5,189	1,507	2,468	104,581	21,235
Georgia	89,943	722	224	194	87	85	132	72,817	16,404
Hawaii	18,214	1,503	217	456	7	28	795	14,606	2,105
Illinois	185,028	17,728	10,770	2,256	240	783	3,679	151,043	16,257
Indiana	84,645	1,510	1,088	241	16	35	130	68,576	14,559
Kansas	41,246	1,388	1,056	96	16	38	182	32,389	7,469
Maine	16,525	58	13	9	2	8	26	12,606	3,861
Mississippi	46,231	112	55	15	6	8	28	31,262	14,857
Nebraska	27,176	606	540	12	5	6	43	22,840	3,730
Nevada	14,103	1,165	714	25	39	49	338	9,822	3,116
New Jersey	96,651	8,951	194	5,036	891	1,908	922	67,533	20,167
New Mexico	26,699	7,791	2,138	38	12	17	5,586	18,478	430
New York	242,297	28,462	610	16,003	678	9,224	1,947	162,335	51,500
North Dakota	12,398	80	52	8	4	-	16	10,653	1,665
Ohio	167,055	1,973	710	829	34	84	316	139,795	25,287
Texas	281,651	74,101	71,796	688	252	1,050	315	168,221	39,329
Utah	41,343	1,625	1,031	6	33	75	480	38,042	1,676
Wyoming	10,814	658	448	11	-	3	196	8,485	1,671

Table 4. Number of live births and percent distribution by race of child, according to Hispanic origin of mother: Total of 22 reporting States, 1981

Race of child	Origin of mother								
	All origins	Hispanic						Non-Hispanic	Not stated
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic		
	Number								
All races	2,100,624	321,954	222,143	33,376	8,369	24,380	33,686	1,644,100	134,570
White	1,672,287	306,183	217,141	30,008	7,893	20,362	30,779	1,252,905	113,199
Black	337,673	10,835	3,456	2,702	400	3,223	1,054	310,270	16,568
Other	90,664	4,936	1,546	666	76	795	1,853	80,925	4,803
	Percent distribution								
All races	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	79.6	95.1	97.7	89.9	94.3	83.5	91.4	76.2	84.1
Black	16.1	3.4	1.6	8.1	4.8	13.2	3.1	18.9	12.3
Other	4.3	1.5	0.7	2.0	0.9	3.3	5.5	4.9	3.6

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Table 5. Birth rates and fertility rates, by Hispanic origin of mother: Total of 11 selected States, 1981

Measure	Origin of mother						
		Hispanic					
	All origins	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Hispanic[1]	Non-Hispanic[2]
Birth rate[3]	16.3	24.1	26.9	19.5	10.9	22.1	15.2
Fertility rate[4]	69.2	97.5	112.3	73.5	47.2	83.0	65.0

[1]Includes Central and South American and other and unknown Hispanic.
[2]Includes origin not stated.
[3]Rate per 1,000 total population.
[4]Rate per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years.

NOTE: The selected States are Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, and Texas.

Table 6. Live births by age and Hispanic origin of mother and by race of child for mothers of non-Hispanic origin: Total of 22 reporting States, 1981

Age of mother	Origin of mother									
		Hispanic						Non-Hispanic		
	All origins[1]	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic	Total[2]	White	Black
All ages	2,100,624	321,954	222,143	33,376	8,369	24,380	33,686	1,644,100	1,252,905	310,270
Under 15 years	5,802	1,192	899	156	11	16	110	4,334	1,262	2,952
15–19 years	305,586	58,302	42,102	7,570	1,080	1,978	5,592	229,727	146,682	76,224
15 years	15,325	3,178	2,334	476	25	74	269	11,385	5,047	6,078
16 years	34,932	7,306	5,302	1,046	92	208	658	25,805	13,991	11,176
17 years	58,866	11,726	8,493	1,603	175	288	1,167	43,853	26,801	15,834
18 years	84,933	16,350	11,900	2,084	277	557	1,532	63,629	41,849	19,817
19 years	111,530	19,742	14,073	2,361	491	851	1,966	85,055	58,994	23,319
20–24 years	697,462	111,875	78,229	11,662	2,861	7,624	11,499	542,552	413,073	109,466
25–29 years	645,390	85,048	57,352	7,894	2,388	7,774	9,440	518,063	411,742	72,939
30–34 years	341,297	45,352	29,947	4,324	1,265	4,780	5,036	271,635	216,315	35,603
35–39 years	89,596	16,408	10,930	1,490	482	1,840	1,666	67,057	50,501	10,752
40–44 years	14,762	3,566	2,519	272	99	350	326	10,245	7,031	2,216
45–49 years	729	211	165	8	3	18	17	487	299	118

[1]Includes origin not stated.
[2]Includes races other than white and black.

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Table 7. Percent distribution of live births by live-birth order, according to Hispanic origin of mother and by race of child for mothers of non-Hispanic origin: Total of 22 reporting States, 1981

Live-birth order	Origin of mother									
		Hispanic						Non-Hispanic		
	All origins[1]	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic	Total[2]	White	Black
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
First child	42.5	37.3	35.5	40.0	50.5	41.5	40.6	43.5	44.7	38.9
Second child	31.7	28.8	27.9	29.6	32.9	31.0	30.7	32.3	33.0	29.5
Third child	15.2	17.2	17.5	17.2	11.7	17.0	16.8	14.9	14.4	16.9
Fourth child	5.9	8.3	9.1	7.6	3.4	6.3	6.6	5.5	4.9	7.8
Fifth child	2.4	3.9	4.5	3.1	0.9	2.3	2.9	2.1	1.7	3.5
Sixth child and over	2.2	4.5	5.5	2.6	0.6	2.0	2.3	1.8	1.3	3.4

[1] Includes origin not stated.
[2] Includes races other than white and black.

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Table 8. Number and ratio of births to unmarried women, by age and Hispanic origin of mother and by race of child for mothers of non-Hispanic origin: Total of 22 reporting States, 1981

Age of mother	Origin of mother									
		Hispanic						Non-Hispanic		
	All origins[1]	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic	Total[2]	White	Black
	Number									
All ages	413,962	78,758	46,064	16,014	1,196	7,076	8,408	310,246	122,300	177,064
Under 15 years	5,145	863	606	145	8	15	89	4,034	1,009	2,924
15–19 years	131,220	25,277	15,853	5,226	327	1,037	2,834	117,397	48,074	65,936
15 years	12,069	1,985	1,282	425	12	55	211	9,444	3,292	5,947
16 years	23,496	3,996	2,574	830	40	136	416	18,239	7,166	10,631
17 years	33,439	5,664	3,614	1,146	60	185	659	25,901	10,786	14,422
18 years	40,246	6,735	4,214	1,416	96	273	736	31,229	13,282	16,974
19 years	41,970	6,897	4,169	1,409	119	388	812	32,584	13,548	17,962
20–24 years	148,215	27,549	16,114	5,527	431	2,543	2,934	111,829	43,978	64,031
25–29 years	68,002	14,532	7,941	2,975	233	1,892	1,491	49,030	18,270	28,698
30–34 years	29,608	7,222	3,759	1,499	121	1,109	734	20,275	7,830	11,374
35–39 years	9,641	2,707	1,460	534	60	390	263	6,307	2,609	3,344
40–49 years	2,131	608	331	108	16	90	63	1,374	530	757
	Ratio per 1,000 total births									
All ages	197.1	244.6	207.4	479.8	142.9	290.2	249.6	188.7	97.6	570.7
Under 15 years	886.8	724.0	674.1	929.5	*727.3	*937.5	809.1	930.8	799.5	990.5
15–19 years	494.9	433.6	376.5	690.4	308.5	524.3	506.8	511.0	327.7	865.0
15 years	787.5	624.6	549.3	892.9	480.0	743.2	784.4	829.5	652.3	978.4
16 years	672.6	546.9	485.5	793.5	434.8	653.8	632.2	706.8	512.2	951.2
17 years	568.1	483.0	425.5	714.9	342.9	642.4	564.7	590.6	402.4	910.8
18 years	473.9	411.9	354.1	679.5	346.6	490.1	480.4	490.8	317.4	856.5
19 years	376.3	349.4	296.2	596.8	242.4	455.9	413.0	383.1	229.7	770.3
20–24 years	212.5	246.2	206.0	473.9	150.6	333.6	255.2	206.1	106.5	584.9
25–29 years	105.4	170.9	138.5	376.9	90.0	243.4	157.9	94.6	43.7	393.5
30–34 years	86.8	159.2	125.5	346.7	95.7	232.0	145.8	74.6	36.2	319.5
35–39 years	107.6	165.0	133.6	358.4	124.5	212.0	157.9	94.1	51.7	311.0
40–49 years	137.6	161.0	123.3	385.7	156.9	244.6	183.7	128.0	72.3	324.3

[1] Includes origin not stated.
[2] Includes races other than white and black.

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Table 9. Percent of mothers completing 12 years or more of school, by age and Hispanic origin of mother and by race of child for mothers of non-Hispanic origin: Total of 20 reporting States, 1981

Age of mother	Origin of mother									
		Hispanic						Non-Hispanic[2]		
	All origins[1,2]	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic	Total[3]	White	Black
All ages	76.5	50.5	38.1	46.1	73.1	60.7	60.5	78.8	82.8	63.8
Under 15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15–19 years	38.1	24.6	20.0	20.7	36.9	35.7	32.6	39.5	41.7	35.7
15–17 years	9.8	7.8	5.7	6.7	13.6	17.3	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0
18–19 years	53.9	34.9	28.3	30.7	45.9	42.8	46.2	55.8	55.7	56.2
20–24 years	76.5	53.2	41.4	49.6	73.9	61.9	64.6	78.8	81.2	71.3
25–29 years	87.9	60.7	45.9	59.6	83.5	64.6	71.1	89.8	92.3	77.8
30–34 years	88.9	59.5	44.5	59.0	81.9	63.3	68.8	91.3	93.7	78.9
35–39 years	81.8	49.4	30.8	48.2	71.9	59.9	54.8	85.5	89.6	69.2
40–49 years	70.1	40.6	18.9	41.1	62.9	48.2	53.4	73.7	80.1	57.7

[1] Includes origin not stated.
[2] Figures for non-Hispanic births are based on a 20-percent sample.
[3] Includes races other than white and black.

NOTE: Excludes data for California and Texas, which did not report educational attainment.

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Table 10. Percent of mothers who began prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy and percent of mothers who had late or no prenatal care, by age and Hispanic origin of mother and by race of child for mothers of non-Hispanic origin, and median number of prenatal visits: Total of 22 reporting States, 1981

Trimester of pregnancy prenatal care began, age of mother, and median number of visits	Origin of mother									
		Hispanic						Non-Hispanic[2]		
	All origins[1,2]	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic	Total[3]	White	Black
TRIMESTER OF PREGNANCY PRENATAL CARE BEGAN										
First trimester					Percent					
All ages	74.8	60.6	60.1	54.2	80.1	58.3	66.9	77.3	81.5	61.5
Under 15 years	35.1	35.6	36.6	29.3	*45.5	*12.5	39.6	35.7	33.5	37.0
15–19 years	54.5	48.4	49.4	41.8	61.9	41.5	49.9	55.8	60.0	47.9
15–17 years	47.7	45.3	46.6	39.3	54.5	36.0	45.1	48.2	51.6	43.5
18–19 years	58.2	50.3	51.1	43.6	64.7	43.8	52.8	59.8	63.2	51.3
20–24 years	72.7	59.7	59.7	52.7	79.5	54.5	64.8	75.2	79.2	61.4
25–29 years	82.4	66.6	65.9	62.5	85.3	60.8	74.5	84.7	87.8	70.4
30–34 years	83.1	67.3	66.3	62.9	85.9	64.4	75.6	85.5	88.0	73.2
35–39 years	77.4	62.9	61.4	59.4	79.7	64.8	69.1	80.5	83.6	67.6
40–49 years	66.9	55.9	52.4	58.1	82.4	62.2	66.4	70.6	73.8	62.1
Third trimester or no care										
All ages	5.9	11.6	11.0	15.8	4.2	12.4	8.3	4.9	3.6	9.9
Under 15 years	21.5	22.7	21.1	30.6	*36.4	*37.5	20.8	20.6	16.1	18.3
15–19 years	11.6	16.1	15.3	21.9	9.3	18.7	14.9	10.8	9.0	13.9
15–17 years	13.6	17.1	16.3	22.7	12.6	20.3	15.0	13.0	11.3	15.2
18–19 years	10.5	15.5	14.7	21.3	8.1	18.0	14.8	9.5	7.9	12.8
20–24 years	6.5	12.0	11.8	16.6	4.5	14.7	9.0	5.5	4.1	10.4
25–29 years	3.7	9.2	9.4	11.8	2.7	11.0	5.4	2.9	2.0	7.1
30–34 years	3.6	9.1	9.6	11.9	2.7	9.2	5.2	2.7	1.9	6.3
35–39 years	5.2	10.3	10.9	11.6	2.3	9.8	7.6	4.0	2.9	7.5
40–49 years	8.4	13.3	14.5	13.0	2.9	12.8	8.0	6.6	5.2	7.7
PRENATAL VISITS										
Number[4,5]	11.1	9.7	9.5	9.3	Median 11.3	9.8	10.0	11.2	11.5	10.7

[1]Includes origin not stated.
[2]Figures for non-Hispanic births are based on a 20-percent sample.
[3]Includes races other than white and black.
[4]Excludes births to mothers with no prenatal care.
[5]Excludes data for California and New Mexico, which did not report number of prenatal visits.

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Table 11. Percent low birth weight by age and Hispanic origin of mother and by race of child for mothers of non-Hispanic origin: Total of 22 reporting States, 1981

Age of mother	Origin of mother									
		Hispanic						Non-Hispanic[2]		
	All origins[1,2]	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic	Total[3]	White	Black
All ages	6.9	6.1	5.6	9.0	5.8	5.7	7.0	7.0	5.7	12.7
Under 15 years	13.0	7.7	6.7	14.2	*18.2	-	7.3	14.8	12.8	15.8
15–19 years	9.4	7.5	6.9	9.9	8.8	7.1	9.0	9.8	7.7	13.9
15–17 years	10.4	8.0	7.2	10.2	13.4	7.5	10.5	11.1	8.7	14.5
18–19 years	8.8	7.2	6.7	9.7	7.0	6.9	8.2	9.1	7.3	13.5
20–24 years	7.1	6.1	5.6	9.2	5.8	5.8	7.0	7.3	5.8	12.9
25–29 years	5.9	5.3	4.8	8.2	4.7	5.5	6.3	5.9	5.0	11.6
30–34 years	5.9	5.7	5.4	8.4	5.5	5.6	5.8	6.0	5.2	11.5
35–39 years	6.8	5.9	5.4	8.1	5.2	5.4	7.5	6.9	5.9	12.1
40–49 years	8.4	6.7	6.4	10.8	9.8	4.5	6.2	9.1	7.9	13.3

[1]Includes origin not stated.
[2]Figures for non-Hispanic births are based on a 20-percent sample.
[3]Includes races other than white and black.

Table 12. Number of live births by attendant at birth and place of delivery and percent distribution by attendant at birth, according to Hispanic origin of mother and race of child for mothers of non-Hispanic origin: Total of 22 reporting States, 1981

Attendant at birth and place of delivery	Origin of mother									
		Hispanic						Non-Hispanic[2]		
	All origins[1,2]	Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other and unknown Hispanic	Total[3]	White	Black
	Number									
All births	2,100,624	321,954	222,143	33,376	8,369	24,380	33,686	1,644,100	1,252,905	310,270
In hospital[4]	2,077,935	316,336	217,006	33,274	8,352	24,254	33,450	1,629,429	1,241,256	307,841
Physician	2,002,823	296,381	202,395	31,758	7,961	22,467	31,800	1,581,925	1,212,221	293,698
Midwife	34,804	7,655	4,338	1,393	303	881	740	24,505	12,769	10,168
Other and not specified	40,308	12,300	10,273	123	88	906	910	22,999	16,266	3,975
Out of hospital[5]	22,690	5,618	5,137	102	17	126	236	14,672	11,648	2,428
Physician	5,695	550	421	39	6	35	49	4,394	3,247	911
Midwife	8,610	4,045	3,888	28	8	49	72	4,003	3,397	556
Other and not specified	8,385	1,023	828	35	3	42	115	6,275	5,004	961
	Percent distribution									
All births	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Physician	95.6	92.2	91.3	95.3	95.2	92.3	94.5	96.5	97.0	95.0
Midwife	2.1	3.6	3.7	4.3	3.7	3.8	2.4	1.7	1.3	3.5
Other and not specified	2.3	4.1	5.0	0.5	1.1	3.9	3.0	1.8	1.7	1.6

[1]Includes origin not stated.
[2]Distribution by attendant and place of delivery for non-Hispanic births is based on a 20-percent sample; see Technical notes. Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.
[3]Includes races other than white and black.
[4]Includes births occurring en route to or on arrival at hospital.
[5]Includes births with place of delivery not stated.

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Technical notes

Sources of data

Concurrent with the 1978 revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth, the National Center for Health Statistics recommended that States add items to identify Hispanic or ethnic origin of the newborn's mother and father. All 22 reporting States selected one of two basic formats. The first format was an open-ended item to obtain the specific origin or descent of each parent (for example, Italian, Mexican, German, Puerto Rican, English, or Cuban). The second format was directed specifically toward the Hispanic population and asked whether the mother and father were of Spanish origin. If so, the specific origin such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Cuban, was to be indicated.

Sampling

Birth data shown in this report are based on 100 percent of the births occurring in the 18 States that provided data through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Births occurring in the remaining four States (Arizona, California, Georgia, and New Mexico) were sampled at a 50-percent rate. Because the sampling rate is large, the associated errors are relatively small. The data shown in the tables are for births to all residents of the 22 States reporting ethnic or Hispanic origin, regardless of where the births occurred. Births occurring in nonreporting States to residents of the 22 reporting States are included in the "not stated" origin category. Data for births to non-Hispanic mothers shown in tables 9–12 are based on a 20-percent sample of births. The frequencies in table 12 were obtained by multiplying the percent distribution by attendant at birth and place of delivery from the 20-percent sample by the total number of births to white and black non-Hispanic mothers from the more complete file.

Racial classification

Racial designation in this report is that of the child, which is determined from the race of the parents as entered on the birth certificate. When parents are of different races and one parent is white, the child is assigned the other parent's race. When parents are of different races and neither parent is white, the child is assigned the father's race with one exception—if the mother is Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian, the child is considered Hawaiian. If race is missing on the certificate for one parent, the child is assigned the race of the other parent. When race is not reported for either parent, the race of the child is assigned according to the race of the child on the immediately preceding record.

Population denominators

Birth and fertility rates for 1981 are based on unpublished estimates of the Hispanic population from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The original CPS estimate of the total Hispanic population for 1981 is not comparable with the results of the 1980 census. Because the 1980 census data are believed to be more accurate, the 1981 CPS figures have been adjusted. The CPS estimates of the Hispanic population for 1983 are believed to be more consistent with the 1980 census than either the 1981 or 1982 original CPS estimates. Therefore for this report the 1981 figures have been interpolated using the 1980 census and the 1983 CPS data as endpoints. The resulting population estimates are the basis of the rates shown in this report. More information on the original 1981 and 1982 CPS estimates, as well as the 1980 census data on the Hispanic population, may be found in Bureau of the Census publications.[7,8]

Computation of rates

In computing vital statistics rates for this report, births with unknown origin of mother are included with the non-Hispanic births rather than being distributed. Thus rates for the Hispanic population are underestimates of the true rates to the extent that the births with unknown origin of mother for the 11-State area (6.4 percent) are actually to Hispanic mothers. The population with unknown origin has been imputed. The effect on the rates is believed to be small.

Computation of percent distribution and medians

Births with unknown live-birth order, educational attainment of mother, month of pregnancy prenatal care began, and birth weight were subtracted from total births before percent distributions were computed. The median number of prenatal visits includes only mothers who received prenatal care; mothers with no prenatal care or an unknown number of visits are excluded. Data are shown with an asterisk (*) when the base of the measure is less than 20 live births.

NOTE: A list of references follows the text.

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Symbols

- - -	Data not available
. . .	Category not applicable
-	Quantity zero
0.0	Quantity more than 0 but less than 0.05
Z	Quantity more than zero but less than 500 where numbers are rounded to thousands
*	Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision

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